

## Amendments to the Claims

### Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. **(Currently amended)** A method for collecting acrylic acid comprising: ~~the step of collecting acrylic acid using an aqueous medium introduced into a collection device from a reaction gas, comprising acrylic acid obtained by catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of propane, propylene, and/or acrolein, and introduced into the collection device,~~  
— ~~wherein the collecting step comprises:~~

introducing ~~the~~ a reaction gas into ~~the collection~~ a distillation device, ~~the reaction gas comprising acrylic acid obtained by catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of propane, propylene, and/or acrolein; and~~

introducing ~~the~~ an aqueous medium into the ~~collection~~ distillation device and distilling water from the ~~collection~~ distillation device to collect acrylic acid ~~into~~ in the aqueous medium;

~~wherein the method further comprises the step of~~ adjusting at least one selected from the group consisting of an amount of water distilled from the ~~collection~~ distillation device, an amount of the reaction gas supplied before collection, an amount of the aqueous medium used, and a water content in the aqueous medium,

wherein said step of adjusting is conducted while maintaining the following condition:  $(B/A) < 1.25$ , wherein A represents a weight fraction of acrylic acid to all condensable ingredients in the reaction gas before collecting acrylic acid and B represents a weight fraction of acrylic acid in bottoms of the ~~collection~~ distillation device ~~used in the step of collecting~~.

10. **(Previously presented)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 9, wherein the aqueous medium is an aqueous solution that comprises at least 90 wt% of water.

11. **(Currently amended)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 9, wherein the ~~collection~~ distillation device comprises a collection column.

12. **(Currently amended)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 11, wherein the collection is performed while a temperature of a top of the collection column is kept within a ~~predetermined range~~  $\pm 1$  °C.

13. **(Currently amended)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 10, wherein the ~~collection~~ distillation device comprises a collection column.

14. **(Currently amended)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 13, wherein the collection is performed while a temperature of a top of the collection column is kept within a ~~predetermined range~~  $\pm 1$  °C.

Claims 15-16 **(Cancelled)**